



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

**Public Act No. 23-22**

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MINOR AND TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTION STATUTES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 2-111 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(1) Four members of the General Assembly, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and one of [who] whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

Sec. 2. Section 2-129 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) Wherever the [terms] term "Commission on Women, Children and Seniors" [are] is used in any public or special act of the 2019 regular session, the term "Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity" shall be substituted in lieu thereof. Wherever the

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

[terms] term "Commission on Equity and Opportunity" [are] is used in any public or special act of the 2019 regular session, the term "Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity" shall be substituted in lieu thereof.

(b) The Legislative Commissioners' Office shall, in codifying the provisions of this section, make such technical, grammatical and punctuation changes as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

Sec. 3. Section 4-67o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

As used in this section [,] and sections 2-79e, [and] 4-67p and 4-67z:

(1) "Data" means the final version of statistical or factual information that: (A) Is reflected in a list, table, graph, chart or other non-narrative form that can be digitally or nondigitally transmitted or processed; (B) is regularly created or maintained by, or on behalf of, an executive branch agency; and (C) records a measurement, transaction or determination related to the mission of the agency or is provided to the agency by third parties pursuant to law.

(2) "Executive branch agency" means any agency listed in section 4-38c, except the Board of Regents for Higher Education.

(3) "High value data" means any data that the department head determines (A) is critical to the operation of an executive branch agency; (B) can increase executive branch agency accountability and responsiveness; (C) can improve public knowledge of the executive branch agency and its operations; (D) can further the core mission of the executive branch agency; (E) can create economic opportunity; (F) is frequently requested by the public; (G) responds to a need and demand as identified by the agency through public consultation; or (H) is used to satisfy any legislative or other reporting requirements.

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

(4) "Open data" means any data that (A) is freely available in convenient and modifiable format and can be retrieved, downloaded, indexed and searched; (B) is formatted in a manner that allows for automated machine processing; (C) does not have restrictions governing use; (D) is published with the finest possible level of detail that is practicable and permitted by law; and (E) is described in enough detail so users of the data have sufficient information to understand (i) the strengths, weaknesses, analytical limitations and security requirements of the data, and (ii) how to process such data.

(5) "Public data" means any data collected by an executive branch agency that is permitted to be made available to the public, consistent with any and all applicable laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, resolutions, policies or other restrictions, requirements or rights associated with the data, including, but not limited to, contractual or other legal restrictions, orders or requirements.

(6) "Protected data" means any data the public disclosure of which would (A) violate federal or state laws or regulations; (B) endanger the public health, safety or welfare; (C) hinder the operation of the federal, state or municipal government, including criminal and civil investigations; or (D) impose an undue financial, operational or administrative burden on the executive branch agency. "Protected data" includes any records not required to be disclosed pursuant to subsection (b) of section 1-210.

Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 4-67x of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) There shall be a Child Poverty and Prevention Council consisting of the following members or their designees: The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

Senate and the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the Commissioners of Children and Families, Social Services, Correction, Developmental Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Transportation, Public Health, Education, Housing, Agriculture and Economic and Community Development, the Labor Commissioner, the Chief Court Administrator, the chairperson of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the Child Advocate, the executive directors of the Office of Early Childhood, [and] the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and [the executive director of] the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity. [or a designee.] The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, shall be the chairperson of the council. The council shall (1) develop and promote the implementation of a ten-year plan, to begin June 8, 2004, to reduce the number of children living in poverty in the state by fifty per cent, and (2) within available appropriations, establish prevention goals and recommendations and measure prevention service outcomes in accordance with this section in order to promote the health and well-being of children and families.

Sec. 5. Section 4a-60j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

A small contractor shall receive payment on a contract awarded to him or her under the provisions of sections 4a-60g to 4a-60i, inclusive, no later than twenty-five days [from] after the due date of any such payment on such contract.

Sec. 6. Subsection (f) of section 5-263b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(f) Any suggestion that involves the following shall not be eligible for an award under this section: (1) Deferred maintenance or replacement of essential equipment and supplies; (2) individual employee

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

compensation or position classification; (3) personal grievances or complaints; (4) suggestions that require a change to, or that conflict with, federal or state law; (5) suggestions already submitted by another employee; (6) matters resulting from an agency audit, study, survey, review or research; (7) suggestions that involve correcting a condition that exists because established procedures are not being followed; (8) suggestions that constitute opinions only, and which cannot be supported by demonstrating a better idea, and the need for same; (9) suggestions concerning any matter subject to collective bargaining; (10) suggestions circumventing competitive procurement procedures provided by state law or policy; (11) suggestions which recommend or require formal studies, surveys, investigation or similar research activity to establish the benefits of a suggestion referred to; (12) suggestions which are hypothetical, vague, based on inconclusive justification or deal with generalities; (13) suggestions concerning the structure of lottery games conducted by the Connecticut Lottery Corporation, including, but not limited to, game design, prize patterns, draw dates and draw frequency; (14) any suggestion made by the agency suggestion coordinator or agency or department head; (15) suggestions concerning a practice that is an alleged gross waste of funds that the suggesting employee participated in committing; and (16) any suggestion resulting in less than ten thousand dollars in estimated savings to the agency.

Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 9-368c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) No person shall intentionally misrepresent the contents of a petition circulated under this title. [9.]

Sec. 8. Subdivision (9) of subsection (c) of section 17b-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

(9) A member of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, designated by the executive director of said commission;

Sec. 9. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-7 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(1) Each board or commission shall exercise its statutory functions, including licensing, certification, registration, accreditation of schools and the rendering of findings, orders and adjudications. With the exception of the Liquor Control Commission, any exercise of such functions by such a board or commission that is adverse to a party shall be a proposed final decision and subject to approval, modification or rejection by the commissioner.

Sec. 10. Subsection (b) of section 21a-7 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(b) With the exception of the Liquor Control Commission, each board or commission within the Department of Consumer Protection under section 21a-6 that makes a proposed final decision that is adverse to a party as described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, shall submit such proposed final decision to the Commissioner of Consumer Protection. Not later than thirty calendar days after receipt of any such proposed final decision, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall notify such board or commission that the commissioner shall render the final decision concerning such matter. Not later than thirty days after receipt of any such proposed final decision, the commissioner shall approve, modify or reject the proposed final decision or remand the proposed final decision for further review or for the taking of additional evidence. The commissioner shall notify the board or commission in writing of the commissioner's decision and

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

include in such notification the rationale for such decision. The decision of the commissioner shall be the final decision in accordance with section 4-180 for purposes of reconsideration in accordance with section 4-181a or appeal to the Superior Court in accordance with section 4-183.

Sec. 11. Subsection (b) of section 32-58b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(b) The Governor, in consultation with the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, shall appoint an executive director, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive, as amended by this act, to manage the daily activities and duties of the Office of Military Affairs. The executive director shall have the necessary qualifications to perform the duties of said office, including, but not limited to, having prior military experience, and having attained the rank of a field grade or senior officer within a branch of the armed forces. The Governor shall give preference to any person with the necessary training and experience who has served in the Navy or who has knowledge or prior experience with the federal Base Realignment and Closure or "BRAC" process. Within available appropriations, the executive director shall: (1) Appoint, employ and remove such assistants, employees and personnel as deemed necessary for the efficient and effective administration of the activities of the office; (2) coordinate state and local efforts to prevent the closure or downsizing of Connecticut military facilities, particularly United States Naval Submarine Base-New London, located in Groton; (3) maximize the state's input into the federal Base Realignment and Closure or "BRAC" process, including, but not limited to, (A) acting as liaison to the state's congressional delegation on defense, military and BRAC issues, and (B) coordinating the activities of consultants hired by the state to assist in monitoring activities related to BRAC; (4) encourage the relocation of military missions to the state; (5) coordinate state and local

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

efforts to enhance the quality of life of all branches of military personnel stationed in or deploying from Connecticut and their families living or working in Connecticut; (6) review and make recommendations for state policies that affect Connecticut's military facilities and defense and homeland security industries; (7) coordinate state, regional and local efforts to encourage the growth of Connecticut's defense and homeland security industry; (8) serve as an advocate for service members and their families to other state agencies; (9) initiate and sustain collaborative partnerships with local military commanders; (10) consult with the Department of Economic and Community Development on proposed financial assistance agreements with defense and homeland security firms; and (11) prepare and submit a report of activities, findings and recommendations annually to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce and public safety, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

Sec. 12. Section 4-5 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

As used in sections 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8, the term "department head" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, Commissioner of Administrative Services, Commissioner of Revenue Services, Banking Commissioner, Commissioner of Children and Families, Commissioner of Consumer Protection, Commissioner of Correction, Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, State Board of Education, Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Public Health, Insurance Commissioner, Labor Commissioner, Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Commissioner of Social Services, Commissioner of Developmental Services, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, Commissioner of Transportation, Commissioner of



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

Veterans Affairs, Commissioner of Housing, Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, [the] Commissioner of Early Childhood, [the] executive director of the Office of Health Strategy, [the] executive director of the Office of Military Affairs, [the] executive director of the Technical Education and Career System, [the] Chief Workforce Officer and [the] executive director of the Office of Higher Education. As used in sections 4-6 and 4-7, "department head" also means the Commissioner of Education.

Sec. 13. Subdivisions (103) to (105), inclusive, of subsection (a) of section 10-29a of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(103) The Governor shall proclaim the month of March of each year to be Peace Corps Month, in recognition of the service provided by the volunteers of the Peace Corps in supporting the global community. Suitable exercises may be held in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the Governor designates for the observance of the month.

(104) [Maternal Mental Health Month.] The Governor shall proclaim the month of May of each year to be Maternal Mental Health Month, to raise awareness of issues surrounding maternal mental health. Suitable exercises may be held in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the Governor designates for the observance of the month.

(105) [Maternal Mental Health Day.] The Governor shall proclaim May fifth of each year to be Maternal Mental Health Day, to raise awareness of issues surrounding maternal mental health. Suitable exercises may be held in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the Governor designates for the observance of the day.

Sec. 14. Section 9-139b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

[(a)] The Secretary of the State may make any changes in any forms

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

prescribed by this chapter which, in the opinion of the Secretary, are necessary to conform to the applicable provisions of federal law.

[(b) For the state election in 2020, and any election, primary or referendum held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, the Secretary of the State may make any changes in any forms prescribed by this chapter or in any printed, recorded or electronic material issued pursuant to this chapter which, in the opinion of the Secretary, are necessary to conform to the applicable provisions of law.]

Sec. 15. Subsection (g) of section 9-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(g) [(1)] On the first day of issuance of absentee voting sets the municipal clerk shall mail an absentee voting set to each applicant whose application was received by the clerk prior to that day. When the clerk receives an application during the time period in which absentee voting sets are to be issued he shall mail an absentee voting set to the applicant, within twenty-four hours, unless the applicant submits his application in person at the office of the clerk and asks to be given his absentee voting set immediately, in which case the clerk shall comply with the request. Any absentee voting set to be mailed to an applicant shall be mailed to the bona fide personal mailing address shown on the application. Issuance of absentee voting sets shall also be subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, section 9-150c and section 9-159q, as amended by this act, concerning persons designated to deliver or return ballots in cases involving unforeseen illness or disability and supervised voting at certain health care institutions.

[(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, for the state election in 2020, and any election, primary or referendum held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, each absentee voting set required to be mailed to an applicant

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

under said subdivision (A) shall be mailed by the municipal clerk within forty-eight hours after the application for such absentee voting set is received by the clerk, or (B) may be mailed by a third-party mailing vendor approved and selected by the Secretary of the State for use by the municipal clerk for such purpose, provided any contract between the Secretary of the State and any such vendor shall require that such vendor mail each absentee voting set within seventy-two hours after the application for such absentee voting set is received by such vendor from the clerk.]

Sec. 16. Subsection (b) of section 9-140b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(b) As used in this section and section 9-150c, "designee" means (1) a person who is caring for the applicant because of the applicant's illness or physical disability, including, but not limited to, a licensed physician or a registered or practical nurse, (2) a member of the applicant's family, who is designated by an absentee ballot applicant and who consents to such designation, or (3) a police officer, registrar of voters, deputy registrar of voters or assistant registrar of voters in the municipality in which the applicant resides.

Sec. 17. Section 9-140c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) The municipal clerk shall retain the envelopes containing absentee ballots received by him under section 9-140b, as amended by this act, and shall not open such envelopes. The municipal clerk shall endorse over his signature, upon each outer envelope as he receives it, the date and precise time of its receipt. The clerk shall make an affidavit attesting to the accuracy of all such endorsements, and at the close of the polls shall deliver such affidavit to the head moderator, who shall endorse the time of its receipt and return it to the clerk after all counting is complete.

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

The clerk shall preserve the affidavit for one hundred eighty days in accordance with the requirements of section 9-150b, as amended by this act. The clerk shall keep a list of the names of the applicants who return absentee ballots to the clerk under section 9-140b, as amended by this act. The list shall be preserved as a public record as required by section 9-150b, as amended by this act.

(b) (1) [(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, beginning] Beginning not earlier than the seventh day before the election, primary or referendum and on any weekday thereafter, all absentee ballots received by the municipal clerk at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. of such day may be sorted into voting districts by the municipal clerk and checked as provided in this [subparagraph] subsection. On any such day, beginning as soon as the ballots have been sorted, the registrars of voters, without opening the outer envelopes, may check the names of the applicants returning ballots on the official checklist to be used at the election, primary or referendum by indicating "absentee" or "A" preceding each such name and, if unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties, the designation of the party in which the applicants are voting preceding each such name. Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in the respective polling places, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act, the registrars shall also place such indication on a duplicate checklist to be retained by the municipal clerk until the municipal clerk delivers such duplicate checklist to the registrars, in accordance with subsection (e) of this section, for the use of the absentee ballot counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.

[(B) For the state election in 2020, and any election, primary or referendum held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, beginning on the fourteenth day before such election, primary or referendum and on any weekday thereafter, all absentee ballots received by the municipal clerk at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. of such

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

day may be sorted into voting districts by the municipal clerk and checked as provided in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.]

(2) All absentee ballots received at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. of the last day before the election, primary or referendum which is not a Sunday or legal holiday, shall be sorted into voting districts by the municipal clerk and checked as provided in [subparagraph (A) of] subdivision (1) of this subsection not later than such last day.

(c) If the name of the applicant returning the ballot is not on the official checklist for any polling place in such municipality, the registrars shall endorse on the face of such outer envelope the word "rejected", followed by a statement of the reasons for rejection, and the outer envelope shall not be opened or the ballot counted.

(d) After such checking has been completed on any such day, the municipal clerk shall seal the unopened ballots in a package and retain them in a safe place.

(e) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, ballots received at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. on the last day before the election, primary or referendum shall be delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars between ten o'clock a.m. and twelve o'clock noon on the day of the election or primary and at twelve o'clock noon on the day of a referendum. Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in the respective polling places, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act, the municipal clerk shall also deliver to the registrars at this time the duplicate checklist provided for in subsection (b) of this section, for the use of the absentee ballot counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.

[(2) (A) For the state election in 2020, and any election, primary or referendum held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021:

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

(i) Ballots received, sorted and checked prior to five o'clock p.m. on the (I) fourth day before such election, primary or referendum may be delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars at five o'clock p.m. on such fourth day, (II) third day before such election, primary or referendum may be so delivered at five o'clock p.m. on such third day, and (III) second day before such election, primary or referendum may be so delivered at five o'clock p.m. on such second day;

(ii) Ballots received not later than eleven o'clock a.m. on the last day before such election, primary or referendum shall be delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars at six o'clock a.m. on the day of such election, primary or referendum; and

(iii) Each time ballots are delivered pursuant to this subparagraph, the municipal clerk shall also deliver to the registrars at such time a copy of the duplicate checklist provided for in subsection (b) of this section, current as of the time of such delivery, for the use of the absentee ballot counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.]

~~[(B)]~~ (2) The municipal clerk may deliver the ballots at ~~[times]~~ a time that is later than ~~[those]~~ the time provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection, ~~[or subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, as applicable,]~~ provided ~~[any]~~ such time is mutually agreed upon by the municipal clerk and registrars and is not later than eight o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum.

(f) Absentee ballots timely received by the clerk after eleven o'clock a.m. of such last day before an election, primary or referendum shall be sorted into voting districts by the clerk and retained by the clerk separately until delivered to the registrars of voters for checking.

(g) Any or all of such ballots received after eleven o'clock a.m. of such last day before an election, primary or referendum and before six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum shall, upon

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

request of the registrars, be delivered to the registrars by the municipal clerk at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum for checking, or at a later time mutually agreed upon by the clerk and registrars, provided such time is not later than eight o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum.

(h) Absentee ballots received after six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum and any ballots received prior to six o'clock p.m. of such day which were not delivered earlier shall be delivered to the registrars at the close of the polls for checking. Although absentee ballots shall be checked by the registrars of voters at various times throughout the election, primary or referendum day, absentee ballots may be counted at one single time during such day.

(i) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the absentee ballot counters, upon receipt of the ballots delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum and at the close of the polls pursuant to subsections (g) and (h) of this section, shall check the names of the applicants returning ballots on the duplicate checklist in the same manner as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

(2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum shall be called in to the appropriate polling places where they shall be checked by the checkers on the official checklists, and they shall also be checked by the absentee ballot counters on the duplicate checklist required under subsection (b) of this section.

(B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act, the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum shall be checked by the

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

absentee ballot counters and checkers at such polling place on the official checklist used at such polling place.

(3) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at the close of the polls shall be checked by the absentee ballot counters on the official checklists used at the polling places and such official checklists, bearing the certifications required by section 9-307, as amended by this act, shall be delivered by the registrars or assistant registrars to the central counting moderator for that purpose.

(B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act, the official checklist used at such polling place shall remain in such polling place for checking by the absentee ballot counters at such polling place.

(4) If the name of an applicant returning a ballot has been checked on the official checklist as having voted in person the absentee ballot counters shall, in checking the ballots, endorse on the face of the outer envelope the word "rejected" followed by a statement of the reason for rejection, and the outer envelope shall not be opened or the ballot counted.

(5) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, when central counting is completed and the result is announced, the central counting moderator shall deliver the duplicate checklist, the official checklists and the returns required by section 9-150b, as amended by this act, to the head moderator.

(B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act, and such counting is completed and the result for such polling place is announced, the moderator for such polling place shall deliver the official checklist used at such polling place and the return required by



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

section 9-150b, as amended by this act, to the head moderator.

(j) Each time absentee ballots are delivered by the clerk to the registrars pursuant to this section, the clerk and registrars shall execute an affidavit of delivery and receipt stating the number of ballots delivered. The clerk shall preserve the affidavit for the period prescribed in section 9-150b, as amended by this act.

(k) [(1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the] The absentee ballot counters shall count, in the manner provided in section 9-150a, each group of absentee ballots upon receipt from the registrars.

[(2) For the state election in 2020, and any election, primary or referendum held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, whenever absentee ballots are to be processed before the day of such election, primary or referendum, pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 9-147a, the absentee ballot counters shall process, in the manner provided in section 9-150e, each group of absentee ballots upon receipt from the registrars.]

(l) The municipal clerk shall retain all outer envelopes containing absentee ballots received by him after the close of the polls, unopened, for the period prescribed in section 9-150b, as amended by this act.

Sec. 18. Section 9-147a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) [or (c)] of this section, at any election, primary or referendum, all absentee ballots shall, within existing resources, be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a at a central location designated by the registrars of voters in writing to the municipal clerk at least twenty days before the election, primary or referendum, which location shall be published in the warning for the election, primary or referendum. Except as provided in subsection (b) of

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

this section, if unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties, all absentee ballots shall be separated, counted, tallied and placed in depository envelopes by voting district. Any member of the public may observe the counting of absentee ballots at such central location.

(b) At any election, primary or referendum, all absentee ballots may be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a in the respective polling places if the registrars of voters agree that such absentee ballots should be so counted. If unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties, absentee ballots may be counted in the respective polling places if the parties agree that such absentee ballots should be so counted. Any election official serving in a polling place may observe the counting of absentee ballots at such polling place.

[(c) (1) For the state election in 2020, and any election, primary or referendum held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, absentee ballots may be processed before the day of such election, primary or referendum in the manner provided in section 9-150e. Any such processing shall take place at a central location designated by the registrars of voters in writing to the municipal clerk at least ten days before such election, primary or referendum, which location shall be published in the warning for such election, primary or referendum.

(2) If absentee ballots are to be processed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the registrars of voters and municipal clerk shall jointly certify such fact in writing to the Secretary of the State at least ten days before such election, primary or referendum. Such written certification shall (A) include the name, street address and relevant contact information associated with the designated central location, and (B) list the name and address of each absentee ballot counter appointed pursuant to section 9-147c. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove such written certification not later than two days after receipt of such

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

certification and may require the appointment of one or more additional absentee ballot counters.

(3) In the case of absentee ballots delivered to the registrars on the day of such election, primary or referendum, nothing in this subsection shall preclude the counting of such absentee ballots in the respective polling places pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.]

Sec. 19. Section 9-150b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) The moderator shall record the result of each count of absentee ballots at any election, primary or referendum, separately by time of count, on (1) a separate moderator's return for each voting district, and (2) a separate record of the number of absentee votes cast for each candidate for each voting district.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, when all counting is complete, the moderator shall publicly declare the result of such count. The moderator shall then deliver to the head moderator the central counting moderator's returns, together with all other information required by law or by the Secretary of the State's instructions. The head moderator shall add the results from the voting tabulators, recorded on the moderator's return for each polling place, to the absentee count recorded on the central counting moderator's return for the corresponding voting district, in the manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State. The returns so completed shall show separately the tabulator vote and the absentee vote and the totals thereof.

(c) If the absentee ballots were counted in the respective polling places, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act, when all counting is complete the moderator shall publicly declare the result of such count as provided in section 9-309, as amended by this act, and add such count to the results from the voting tabulators

***Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185***

recorded on the moderator's return. Such return shall show separately the tabulator vote and the absentee vote and the totals thereof.

(d) The Secretary of the State may prescribe the forms and instructions for the tabulation, counting and return of the absentee ballot vote.

(e) The sealed depository envelopes required by subsections (f) and (m) of section 9-150a shall be returned by the moderator to the municipal clerk as soon as practicable on or before the day following the election, primary or referendum.

(f) The municipal clerk shall preserve for sixty days after the election, primary or referendum the depository envelopes containing opened envelopes and rejected ballots required by subsection (f) of section 9-150a, and shall so preserve for one hundred eighty days the depository envelopes containing counted ballots and related materials required by subsection (m) of section 9-150a.

(g) [(1)] No such depository envelope shall be opened except by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, by the State Elections Enforcement Commission pursuant to a subpoena issued under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b or within five business days after an election, primary or referendum for the purpose of a recanvass conducted pursuant to law. After such a recanvass the depository envelopes and their contents shall be returned to the municipal clerk and preserved for the stated period.

[(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, for the state election in 2020, and any election, primary or referendum held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, no such depository envelope shall be opened for the purpose of a recanvass conducted pursuant to law except within seven business days after such election, primary or referendum as provided in section 9-311.]

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

(h) For sixty days after the election, primary or referendum the following shall be preserved by the municipal clerk as a public record open to public inspection: (1) All executed absentee ballot application forms and direction by registrar forms, as required by [subdivision] subsection (i) of section 9-140; (2) the list and index of applicants for presidential or overseas ballots as required by section 9-158h; (3) the numerical list of absentee voting sets issued as required by subsection (e) of section 9-140; (4) the list of the names of persons whose absentee ballots are received by the municipal clerk, as required by subsection (a) of section 9-140c, as amended by this act; (5) all unused absentee ballots; and (6) all envelopes containing ballots received by the municipal clerk after the close of the polls, which shall remain unopened.

(i) For one hundred eighty days after the election, primary or referendum the following shall be preserved by the municipal clerk as a public record open to public inspection: (1) The affidavit regarding the municipal clerk's endorsement of inner envelopes, as required by subsection (a) of section 9-140c, as amended by this act; and (2) the affidavit regarding delivery and receipt of ballots, as required by subsection (j) of said section.

(j) At the expiration of the applicable retention period, if no contest is pending and no subpoena has been issued by the State Elections Enforcement Commission pursuant to subsection (1) of section 9-7b, the municipal clerk shall destroy the materials preserved under this section.

Sec. 20. Section 9-159o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

[[a)] Any elector who has returned an absentee ballot to the municipal clerk and who finds such elector is able to vote in person shall proceed before ten o'clock a.m. on election, primary or referendum day to the municipal clerk's office and request that such elector's ballot be withdrawn. The municipal clerk shall remove the ballot from the sealed

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

package and shall mark the serially-numbered outer envelope, which shall remain unopened, "rejected" and note the reasons for rejection. The elector shall also endorse the envelope. The rejected ballot shall then be returned to the sealed package until delivered on election, primary or referendum day to the registrars of voters in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended by this act. The municipal clerk shall then give the elector a signed statement directed to the moderator of the voting district in which the elector resides stating that the elector has withdrawn such elector's absentee ballot and may vote in person. Upon delivery of the statement by the elector to the moderator, the moderator shall cause the absentee indication next to the name of the elector to be stricken from the official checklist and the elector may then have such elector's name checked and vote in person. Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in the respective polling places pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act, the municipal clerk shall also cause the absentee indication next to the name of the elector to be stricken from the duplicate checklist to be used by the absentee ballot counters.

[(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, for the state election in 2020, and any election, primary or referendum held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, any elector who has returned an absentee ballot to the municipal clerk and who finds such elector is able to vote in person shall proceed before five o'clock p.m. on the fourth day before such election, primary or referendum to the municipal clerk's office and request that such elector's ballot be withdrawn.]

Sec. 21. Subsection (l) of section 9-159q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(l) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the Secretary of the State may suspend the supervision of absentee balloting

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

under this section and section 9-159r, as amended by this act, provided the Secretary (1) suspends such supervision of absentee balloting in recognition of a declaration by the Governor of a civil preparedness emergency, pursuant to section 28-9, or a public health emergency, pursuant to section [19a-131] 19a-131a, and (2) submits a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections advising of such suspension and specifying alternative actions to be taken to provide opportunities for absentee voting by electors described in this section and section 9-159r, as amended by this act.

Sec. 22. Section 9-159r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes to the contrary, if twenty or more of the patients in any institution in the state are electors, absentee ballots voted by such electors shall be voted under the supervision of the registrars of voters or their designees of the town in which the institution is located, in accordance with the provisions of this section. As used in this section, "institution" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-159q, as amended by this act.

(b) Application for an absentee ballot for any such patient shall be made to the clerk of the town in which such patient is eligible to vote. The application procedure set forth in section 9-140, as amended by this act, shall apply, except that the clerk shall deliver the absentee voting set for any such application to the clerk of the town in which the institution is located, who shall deliver all such voting sets he receives to the registrars of such town, on the date when the supervision of absentee balloting is to occur. The ballots and envelopes shall be prepared for delivery to the applicant as provided in sections 9-137 to 9-140a, inclusive. The registrars or their designees shall furnish the town clerk a written receipt for such ballots. The registrars of the town in which an institution is located and the administrator of the institution

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

shall mutually agree on a date and time for such supervision of absentee balloting, which shall be not later than the last business day before the election or primary.

(c) The supervision of absentee balloting under this section shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of subsections (g), (h), (i) and (k) of section 9-159q, as amended by this act.

[(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of this section, for the state election in 2020, and any election or primary held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, the Secretary of the State may waive any requirement under said subsections, provided the Secretary (1) waives such requirement in recognition of the public health and civil preparedness emergency declared by the Governor on March 10, 2020, and has consulted with the Commissioner of Public Health or said commissioner's designee regarding such waiver, (2) has given written notice to the town clerk and registrars of voters in each municipality, and (3) has submitted a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections advising of such waiver and specifying alternative actions to be taken to provide opportunities for absentee voting by electors described in this section.]

Sec. 23. Section 9-225 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) [(1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the] The town clerk or assistant town clerk of each town shall warn the electors therein to meet on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November in the even-numbered years, at six o'clock a.m., which warning shall be given by publication [(A)] (1) in a newspaper having a general circulation in such town, or towns in the case of a joint publication under subsection (b) of this section, not more than fifteen



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

nor less than five days previous to holding such election, and [(B)] (2) on such town's Internet web site, not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to holding such election. The clerk in each town shall, in the warning for such election, give notice of [(i)] (A) the time and the location of each polling place in the town, [(ii)] (B) in towns divided into voting districts, the time and the location of each polling place in each district, and [(iii)] (C) the time and the location of each location designated for election day registration in the town, at which such election will be held. The town clerk shall record each such warning.

[(2) For the state election in 2020, and any election held pursuant to section 9-211, 9-212, 9-215 or 9-218 on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, the warning under subsection (a) of this section shall be given not more than seven nor less than four days previous to holding such election.]

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any charter or home rule ordinance, the warning under subsection (a) of this section may be published jointly by two or more towns in a newspaper, provided all other requirements of this section with respect to such warning are met.

Sec. 24. Section 9-226 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

[(a)] The warning of each municipal election shall specify the objects for which such election is to be held. [Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, notice] Notice of a town election shall be given by the town clerk or assistant town clerk, by publishing a warning (1) in a newspaper published in such town or having a general circulation therein, such publication to be not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to holding the election, and (2) on such town's Internet web site, such publication to be not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to holding the election. The town clerk in each town shall, in the warning for such election, give notice of (A) the time and the

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

location of each polling place in the town, (B) in towns divided into voting districts, the time and the location of each polling place in each district, and (C) the time and the location of each location designated for election day registration in the town. The town clerk shall record each such warning. [Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, notice] Notice of an election of a city or borough shall be given by publishing a warning (i) in a newspaper published within the limits of such city or borough or having a general circulation therein, not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to holding the election, and (ii) on the Internet web site of such city or borough, or the town having such city or borough within such town's limits, not more than fifteen nor less than five days previous to holding the election, which warning shall include notice of (I) the time and the location of each polling place in such city or borough, (II) in cities and boroughs divided into voting districts, the time and the location of each polling place in each district, and (III) the time and the location of each location designated for election day registration in such city or borough.

[(b) For any municipal election held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, the notice under subsection (a) of this section shall be given not more than seven nor less than four days previous to holding such election.]

Sec. 25. Section 9-307 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

[(a)] Immediately after the polls are closed, the official checker or checkers, appointed under the provisions of section 9-234, shall make and deliver to the moderator a certificate stating the whole number of names on the registry list or enrollment list including, if applicable, unaffiliated electors authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary, and the number checked as having voted in that election or primary. For the purpose of computing the whole number of names on the registry list, the lists of persons who have applied for presidential or

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

overseas ballots prepared in accordance with section 9-158h shall be included. If a paper registry list is used, the registrars or assistant registrars, as the case may be, shall write and sign with ink, on the list or lists so used and checked, a certificate of the whole number of names registered on the list eligible to vote in the election or primary and the number checked as having voted in that election or primary, and deposit it in the office of the municipal clerk not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls. If an electronic version of the registry list is used, the electronic device upon which such list is stored shall be returned to the registrars of voters who shall cause the electronic registry list to be printed. Such printed list shall be signed by each registrar, who shall deposit such list in the office of the municipal clerk not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls. The municipal clerk shall carefully preserve the paper registry list or printed electronic registry list, as applicable, on file, with the marks on it without alteration, for public inspection, and shall immediately enter a certified copy of such certificate on the town records. Subject to the provisions of section 7-109, the municipal clerk may destroy any voting checklist four years after the date upon which it was used. The moderator shall place the certificate which the moderator received from the official checker or checkers in the office of the municipal clerk not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls.

[(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, for the state election in 2020, and any election or primary held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, any certificate or list required under said subsection to be deposited or placed in the office of the municipal clerk shall be so deposited or placed not later than ninety-six hours after the close of the polls at such election or primary.]

Sec. 26. Section 9-309 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

[(a)] Upon the close of the polls, the moderator, in the presence of the

***Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185***

other election officials, shall immediately lock the voting tabulator against voting and immediately cause the vote totals for all candidates and questions to be produced. The moderator shall, in the order of the offices as their titles are arranged on the ballot, read and announce in distinct tones the result as shown, giving the number indicated and indicating the candidate to whom such total belongs, and shall read the votes recorded for each office on the ballot. The moderator shall also, in the same manner, announce the vote on each constitutional amendment, proposition or other question voted on. The vote so announced by the moderator shall be taken down by each checker and recorded on the tally sheets. Each checker shall record the number of votes received for each candidate on the ballot and also the number received by each person for whom write-in ballots were cast. The moderator shall make a preliminary list from the vote totals produced by the tabulators and shall prepare such preliminary list for transmission to the Secretary of the State pursuant to section 9-314, as amended by this act. After such preliminary list has been transmitted to the Secretary of the State, the canvass may be temporarily interrupted, during which time the moderator shall (1) return the keys for all tabulators to the registrars of voters, (2) seal the tabulators against voting or being tampered with, (3) prepare and seal individual envelopes for all (A) write-in ballots, (B) absentee ballots, (C) moderators' returns, and (D) other notes, worksheets or written materials used at the election, and (4) store all such tabulators and envelopes in a secure place or places directed by the registrars of voters. At the end of such temporary interruption, the moderator shall receive such keys from the registrars and shall take possession of and break the seal on all such tabulators and envelopes for the purpose of completing the canvass. The result totals shall remain in full public view until the statement of canvass and all other reports have been fully completed and signed by the moderator, checkers and registrars, or assistant registrars, as the case may be. Any other remaining result of the votes cast shall be publicly announced by the moderator not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls.

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

Such public announcement shall consist of reading both the name of each candidate, with the designating number and letter on the ballot and the absentee vote as furnished to the moderator by the absentee ballot counters, and also the vote cast for and against each question submitted. While such announcement is being made, ample opportunity shall be given to any person lawfully present to compare the results so announced with the result totals provided by the tabulator and any necessary corrections shall then and there be made by the moderator, checkers and registrars or assistant registrars, after which the compartments of the voting tabulator shall be closed and locked. In canvassing, recording and announcing the result, the election officials shall be guided by any instructions furnished by the Secretary of the State.

[(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, for the state election in 2020, and any election held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, after the preliminary list has been transmitted to the Secretary of the State, any other remaining result of the votes cast required under said subsection to be publicly announced by the moderator shall be so announced not later than ninety-six hours after the close of the polls at such election.]

Sec. 27. Section 9-311 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) [(1)] If, within three days after an election, it appears to the moderator that there is a discrepancy in the returns of any voting district, such moderator shall forthwith within said period summon, by written notice delivered personally, the recanvass officials, consisting of at least two checkers of different political parties and at least two absentee ballot counters of different political parties who served at such election, and the registrars of voters of the municipality in which the election was held and such other officials as may be required to conduct such recanvass. Such written notice shall require the clerk or registrars

***Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185***

of voters, as the case may be, to bring with them the depository envelopes required by section 9-150a, the package of write-in ballots provided for in section 9-310, the absentee ballot applications, the list of absentee ballot applications, the registry list and the moderators' returns and shall require such recanvass officials to meet at a specified time not later than the fifth business day after such election to recanvass the returns of a voting tabulator or voting tabulators or absentee ballots or write-in ballots used in such district in such election. If any of such recanvass officials are unavailable at the time of the recanvass, the registrar of voters of the same political party as that of the recanvass official unable to attend shall designate another elector having previous training and experience in the conduct of elections to take his place. Before such recanvass is made, such moderator shall give notice, in writing, to the chairman of the town committee of each political party which nominated candidates for the election, and, in the case of a state election, not later than twenty-four hours after a determination is made regarding the need for a recanvass to the Secretary of the State, of the time and place where such recanvass is to be made; and each such chairman may send representatives to be present at such recanvass. Such representatives may observe, but no one other than a recanvass official may take part in the recanvass. If any irregularity in the recanvass procedure is noted by such a representative, he shall be permitted to present evidence of such irregularity in any contest relating to the election.

[(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, for the state election in 2020, and any election held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, (A) if, within five days after such election, it appears to the moderator that there is a discrepancy in the returns of any voting district, such moderator shall forthwith within said period summon, by written notice delivered personally, the recanvass officials to conduct such recanvass in accordance with the provisions of said subdivision, and (B) such written

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

notice shall require such recanvass officials to meet not later than the seventh business day after such election for such purpose.]

(b) The moderator shall determine the place or places where the recanvass shall be conducted and, if such recanvass is held before the tabulators are boxed and collected in the manner required by section 9-266, the moderator may either require that such recanvass of such tabulators be conducted in each place where the tabulators are located, or he may require that they be removed to one central place, where such recanvass shall be conducted. All recanvassing procedures shall be open to public observation. Such recanvass officials shall, in the presence of such moderator and registrars of voters, make a record of the number on the seal and the number on the protective counter, if one is provided, on each voting tabulator specified by such moderator. Such registrars of voters in the presence of such moderator shall turn over the keys of each such tabulator to such recanvass officials, and such recanvass officials, in the presence of such registrars of voters and moderator, shall immediately proceed to recanvass the vote cast thereon, and shall then open the package of absentee ballots and recanvass the vote cast thereon. In the course of the recanvass of the absentee ballot vote the recanvass officials shall check all outer envelopes for absentee ballots against the inner envelopes for such ballots and against the registry list to verify postmarks, addresses and registry list markings and also to determine whether the number of envelopes from which absentee ballots have been removed is the same as the number of persons checked as having voted by absentee ballot. The write-in ballots shall also be recanvassed at this time. All of the recanvass officials shall use the same forms for tallies and returns as were used at the original canvass and the absentee ballot counters shall also sign the tallies.

(c) [(1)] The votes shall be announced and recorded in the manner prescribed in section 9-309, as amended by this act, on return forms provided by the registrars of voters and appended thereto shall be a

***Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185***

statement signed by the moderator indicating the time and place of the recanvass and the names, addresses, titles and party affiliations of the recanvass officials. The write-in ballots shall be replaced in a properly secured sealed package. Upon the completion of such recanvass, any tabulator used in such recanvass shall be locked and sealed, the keys thereof shall immediately be returned to such registrars of voters and such tabulator shall remain so locked until the expiration of fourteen days after such election or for such longer period as is ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction. The absentee ballots shall be replaced in their wrappers and be resealed by the moderator in the presence of the recanvass officials. Upon the completion of such recanvass, such moderator and at least two of the recanvass officials of different political parties shall forthwith prepare and sign such return forms which shall contain a written statement giving the result of such recanvass for each tabulator and each package of absentee ballots whose returns were so recanvassed, setting forth whether or not the original canvass was correctly made and stating whether or not the discrepancy still remains unaccounted for. Such return forms containing such statement shall forthwith be filed by the moderator in the office of such clerk. If such recanvass reveals that the original canvass of returns was not correctly made, such return forms containing such statement so filed with the clerk shall constitute a corrected return. In the case of a state election, a recanvass return shall be made in duplicate on a form prescribed and provided by the Secretary of the State, and the moderator shall file one copy with the Secretary of the State and one copy with the town clerk not later than ten days after the election. Such recanvass return shall be substituted for the original return and shall have the same force and effect as an original return.

[(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, for the state election in 2020, and any election held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, each copy of the recanvass return required under said subdivision to be filed by the moderator with



**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

the Secretary of the State and the town clerk shall be so filed not later than twelve days after such election.]

(d) As used in this section, (1) "moderator" means, in the case of municipalities not divided into voting districts, the moderator of the election and, in the case of municipalities divided into voting districts, the head moderator of the election, and (2) "registrars of voters", in a municipality where there are different registrars of voters for different voting districts, means the registrars of voters in the voting district in which, at the last-preceding election, the presiding officer for the purpose of declaring the result of the vote of the whole municipality was moderator.

Sec. 28. Section 9-314 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) As used in this subsection, "moderator" means the moderator of each state election in each town not divided into voting districts and the head moderator in each town divided into voting districts. The moderator shall make a preliminary list of the votes given for each of the following officers: Presidential electors, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, United States senator, representative in Congress, state senator, judge of probate, state representative and registrars of voters when said officers are to be chosen, as reported solely by the tabulator, as provided in section 9-309, as amended by this act, in the moderator's town and shall immediately transmit such preliminary list to the Secretary of the State not later than midnight on election day. Once the preliminary list has been transmitted to the Secretary of the State, the moderator shall make a duplicate list of the votes given in the moderator's town for each of the following officers: Presidential electors, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, United States senator, representative in Congress, state senator, judge of probate, state

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

representative and registrars of voters when said officers are to be chosen. Such duplicate list shall indicate the total number of names on the official check list of such town and the total number of names checked as having voted. The moderator shall transmit such duplicate list to the Secretary of the State by electronic means as prescribed by the Secretary of the State not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls on election day. The moderator shall also seal and deliver one of such duplicate lists to the Secretary of the State not later than the third day after the election. Any such moderator who fails to so transmit or deliver such duplicate list to the Secretary of the State by the time required shall pay a late filing fee of fifty dollars. The moderator shall also deliver one of such duplicate lists to the clerk of such town. The Secretary of the State shall enter the returns in tabular form in books kept by the Secretary for that purpose and present a printed report of the same, with the name of, and the total number of votes received by, each of the candidates for said offices, to the General Assembly at its next session.

(b) As used in this subsection, "moderator" means the moderator of each municipal election in each town not divided into voting districts, and the head moderator in each town divided into voting districts. The moderator shall make a preliminary list of the votes given for each municipal office elected at such municipal election, as reported solely by the tabulator, as provided in section 9-309, as amended by this act, in the moderator's town and shall immediately transmit such preliminary list to the Secretary of the State not later than midnight on election day. Once the preliminary list has been transmitted to the Secretary of the State, the moderator shall make a duplicate list of the votes given in the moderator's town for each municipal office elected at such municipal election. Such duplicate list shall indicate the total number of names on the official check list of such town and the total number of names checked as having voted and shall be on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State. The moderator shall transmit such duplicate list

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

to the Secretary of the State by electronic means as prescribed by the Secretary of the State not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls on election day. The moderator shall also seal and deliver one of such duplicate lists to the Secretary of the State not later than the third day after the election. Any such moderator who fails to so transmit or deliver such duplicate list to the Secretary of the State by the time required shall pay a late filing fee of fifty dollars. The moderator shall also deliver one of such duplicate lists to the clerk of such town.

[(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, for the state election in 2020, and any election held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, (1) the duplicate list required under said subsections to be transmitted by electronic means to the Secretary by such moderator shall be so transmitted not later than ninety-six hours after the close of the polls on such election day, and (2) the duplicate list required under said subsections to be sealed and delivered to the Secretary shall be so delivered not later than the fifth day after such election.]

Sec. 29. Subsection (a) of section 9-322a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) [(1)] Not later than forty-eight hours following each regular election, the registrars of voters shall provide the results of the votes cast at such election to the town clerk. Not later than nine o'clock a.m. on the third day following each regular election, the head moderator, registrars of voters and town clerk for each town divided into voting districts shall meet to identify any error in the returns. Not later than one o'clock p.m. on the third day following each regular election, the head moderator shall correct any error identified and file an amended return with the Secretary of the State, the town clerk and the registrars of voters.

[(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

subsection, for the state election in 2020, and any regular election held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, (A) the results of the votes cast at such election required under said subdivision to be provided to the town clerk by the registrars of voters shall be so provided not later than ninety-six hours following such election, (B) the meeting to identify any error in the returns required under said subdivision among the head moderator, registrars of voters and town clerk for each town divided into voting districts shall occur not later than nine o'clock a.m. on the fifth day following such election, and (C) any identified error required under said subdivision to be corrected, and any amended return required under said subdivision to be filed with the Secretary of the State, the town clerk and the registrars of voters, by the head moderator shall be so corrected or filed, as applicable, not later than one o'clock p.m. on the fifth day following such election.]

Sec. 30. Subsection (a) of section 9-433 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) [(1)] After the deadline set forth in section 9-400 for filing candidacies, and upon the completion of the tabulation of petition signatures, if any, if one or more candidacies for nomination by a political party to a state or district office have been filed in accordance with the provisions of section 9-400, the Secretary of the State shall notify the clerk of each town within the state or within the district, as the case may be, that a primary is to be held by such party for the nomination of such party to such office. Such notice shall include a list of all the proposed candidates, those endorsed by the convention as well as those filing candidacies, together with their addresses and the titles of the office for which they are candidates and, if applicable, a statement that unaffiliated electors may vote in the primary. [Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the] The clerk of each such town shall thereupon cause such notice to be published forthwith in a

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

newspaper having a general circulation in such town, or towns in the case of a joint publication under subsection (b) of this section, together with a statement of the date upon which the primary is to be held, the hours during which the polls shall be open and the location of the polls.

[(2) For any primary for nomination by a political party to a state or district office held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, the notice published by the clerk of the town under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be so published not more than seven nor less than four days previous to holding such election.]

Sec. 31. Section 9-435 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

[(a)] Except as provided in sections 9-418 and 9-419, if in any municipality, within the time specified in section 9-405, a candidacy for nomination by a political party to any municipal office or for election as a town committee member is filed with the registrar, in conformity with the provisions of sections 9-405 to 9-412, inclusive, and section 9-414, by or on behalf of any person other than party-endorsed candidates, the registrar shall forthwith after the deadline for certification of party-endorsed candidates notify the clerk of such municipality that a primary is to be held by such party for the nomination of such party to such office or for the election by such party of town committee members, as the case may be. Such notice shall include a list of all the proposed candidates, those endorsed as well as those filing candidacies, together with their addresses and the titles of the offices or positions for which they are candidates. In the case of a primary for justices of the peace, such notice shall also contain the complete ballot designation of each slate pursuant to subsection (h) of section 9-437. [Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the] The clerk of the municipality shall thereupon cause such notice to be published forthwith in a newspaper having a general circulation in such municipality, together with a statement of the date upon which the primary is to be held, the hours during which the polls

**Substitute Senate Bill No. 1185**

shall be open and the location of the polls. The clerk of the municipality shall also file such notice with the Secretary of the State not later than three business days after receipt of such notice from the registrar of voters. The clerk shall forthwith publish any change in the proposed candidates, listing such changes.

[(b) For any primary for nomination by a political party to a municipal office, or for the election by a political party of town committee members, held on or after June 23, 2021, but prior to November 3, 2021, the notice published by the clerk of the municipality under subsection (a) of this section shall be so published not more than seven nor less than four days previous to holding such election.]

Sec. 32. Section 9-164c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

On and after January 1, 2022, (1) any municipality may change the date of its municipal election in accordance with the provisions of section 9-164, (2) in any municipality that changes from the November municipal election date specified in said section to the May municipal election date specified in said section, the terms of incumbent municipal elected officials shall be diminished to conform to such change but for a period of not more than nine months, and (3) in any municipality that changes from the May municipal election date specified in said section to the November date specified in said section, the terms of incumbent municipal [election] elected officials shall be extended to conform to such change but for a period of not more than nine months.

Sec. 33. Section 46a-131 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

Sec. 34. Section 9-150e of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2023*)